



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 4th INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED)
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5200

AFYB-CG


10 January 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Safety Message

1. On 20 January, we will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., recognizing his significant contributions to our great nation. Dr. King's non-violent leadership and compassion for others have indelibly placed a permanent mark in our nation's history. This four-day weekend gives us all time to celebrate his heroic and historic accomplishments.
2. As we celebrate the life and accomplishments of Dr. King, I want to emphasize the importance of every soldier in the Ironhorse Division. This holiday weekend falls at a time when we may have let down our guard after the Christmas holiday; do not allow this to happen to you. Many Americans will be traveling to visit friends and relatives. It is key for leaders, at all levels, to discuss the primary causative factors of vehicle mishaps – excessive speed (incl. Speed too fast for conditions), alcohol consumption, failure to wear seatbelts or to wear motorcycle safety gear, and fatigue. Fatigue was the main cause of death of an Ironhorse Team member last Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The combination of increased traffic density and unpredictable weather conditions greatly enhances the probability of a mishap.
3. Although III Corps lost a soldier to a POV accident prior to Christmas, 4ID(M) did not have one incident. I applaud all leaders and soldiers for their efforts made before and during the Christmas and New Year's period. Continue to use available safety resources and Safety Campaign information. Your continuous commitment to accident prevention is a must. Proper planning and the use of risk assessment will go a long way in raising the safety awareness of all personnel.
4. Let's not allow an incident to take away from the significance of this birthday celebration. I wish all Ironhorse personnel, civilians, and their family members a safe and enjoyable Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday weekend. **IRONHORSE!**

"STEADFAST AND LOYAL"


RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
MG, USA
Commanding

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